

APPEL DU 18 JUIN 1940

IN THE STEPS OF A GREAT MAN



CHARLES DE GAULLE
FROM LILLE
TO COLOMBEY-LES-DEUX-ÉGLISES



L'homme qui devient
président de
la République

The man who became
President of the Republic
Der Mann, der Präsident
der Republik wurde



CHARLES DE GAULLE FROM LILLE TO COLOMBEY-LES-DEUX-ÉGLISES

The Charles de Gaulle Foundation welcomes the Nord and Haute-Marne departments' initiative to jointly promote the museums and memorials that pay tribute to one of France's great men.

From the house where he was born, in Lille, to the village of Colombey-les-Deux-Églises, 250 km east of Paris, where he chose to live and be buried, visitors are invited to enter the private world of Charles de Gaulle.

The house in Lille is a place of childhood memories, but also of the formative years

that forged the character of the man who was to become General de Gaulle.

Colombey is the place where he chose to settle. This became the family home for his children and grandchildren, but also the place where he came to read, think and write. Here too is the towering Lorraine Cross, erected in his memory, that has attracted millions of visitors since 1972.

At its foot, the Charles de Gaulle Memorial links all these places, and offers an insight into and understanding of the man behind the historical figure.

We discover not only de Gaulle the liberator of France, founder of the Fifth Republic, and statesman, but de Gaulle the private person, family man, and writer. This insightful dialogue between his private world and the history of the 20th century sheds light on the complex personality of this great man, in all his simplicity and grandeur.



The typewriter on which the famous Appeal of 18 June 1940 was typed - Charles de Gaulle Foundation

Hervé Gaymard

Chair of the Charles de Gaulle Foundation



LILLE DE GAULLE'S BIRTHPLACE

Charles de Gaulle was born in Lille on 22 November 1890 in his maternal grandparents' house at number 9, Rue Princesse. The house saw many family reunions during his childhood and youth. Here the character of the future President of the Fifth Republic of France was forged, during a period of major geo-political change and in a close-knit family that shared the values of patriotism, religious faith and a sense of public service.



“With age, it's always childhood that becomes most important, and if I could really be myself, it would probably be at Rue Princesse, where I was born.

Charles de Gaulle in an interview with André Frossard ”

In 2020, the building was extensively renovated and the interior of the house completely refurbished, including the living rooms and conservatory. The décor is typical of a late nineteenth-century industrialist's house in northern France, such as that de Gaulle would have known as a child.

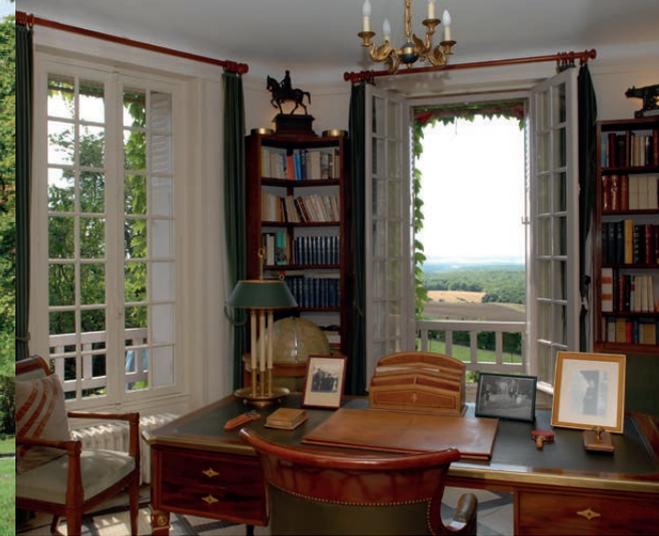
An immersive experience for visitors!



LA BOISSERIE, HIS FAMILY HOME AT COLOMBEY- LES-DEUX-ÉGLISES

Charles and Yvonne de Gaulle bought this property, a former brewery nestling in a nine-acre park, in 1934 as a haven for their daughter Anne, who was born with Down's syndrome. Renovated after being pillaged in the war, it became and remained the couple's main residence. De Gaulle retreated here to think and to write, but it was also where the children and grandchildren spent their holidays. Even today it's a family home; it remains the property of the de Gaulle family, who still live here. The house is just as Yvonne de Gaulle left it in 1978. The rooms currently open to the public – the dining room, living room, library and in particular de Gaulle's study - give visitors a glimpse into the private world of General de Gaulle and his family.

Together, La Boisserie and the birthplace of de Gaulle in Lille offer visitors a unique insight into the formation of Gaullist thinking.



“La Boisserie is my real home. We come to La Boisserie as often as we can. This is where I come to think, to get away from it all [...]. Here, gazing at the horizon or the immensity of the sky, my serenity is restored.

Charles de Gaulle - War Memoirs (Volume 3) ”

THE VILLAGE OF COLOMBEY- LES-DEUX-ÉGLISES, HIS FINAL RESTING-PLACE

For the French, Charles de Gaulle will forever be associated with the village of Colombey-les-Deux-Églises, in the Champagne region.

This is where he sought refuge when he had important decisions to make; here he found the peace and tranquillity to write his memoirs, taking inspiration from the countryside he loved. And this is where he died, on 9 November 1970. In the hearts and minds of the many visitors to his grave, his memory lives on.





THE LORRAINE CROSS

“Do you see that hilltop,
the highest one?
A Lorraine cross
will be erected there
after my death.”

This is how Charles de Gaulle described the highest point of the village of Colombey-les-Deux-Églises in 1954. The cross, symbol of Free France, was erected in 1972.

According to French novelist and culture minister André Malraux, de Gaulle added “No-one will come here, apart from the rabbits to continue their underground activities”. Who would have imagined that in that first year, 1972, the giant pink granite and bronze cross, visible from over 30 km away, would see more than 400,000 visitors from all over the world?

If you are interested in visiting these museums and memorials, either individually or as a group, we will be happy to organise your visit.

Check out all our available offers for Lille and Colombey-les-Deux-Églises.

www.lilletourism.com
www.tourisme-hautemarne.com



THE CHARLES DE GAULLE MEMORIAL

Nearly half a century later, in 2008, the Charles de Gaulle Memorial opened. An interpretation centre extending over 1,600 sq. metres of permanent and temporary exhibition space, its modern and interactive design introduces visitors to the multiple facets of Charles de Gaulle: soldier, family man, writer, and founder of the Fifth French Republic.



Featuring more than 1,000 photographs, maps and films, the Charles de Gaulle Memorial takes visitors on an innovative, immersive, moving and inspirational multimedia journey through the history of the twentieth century. Discover, for example, life in the trenches of World War I, the African desert, the streets of Paris in 1968, and de Gaulle's major voyages, not forgetting of course his departure to London in 1940.



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